

(Before broaching that, I'll say that  
why I wish the Manual to include  
the Southern States - in part - 1<sup>st</sup> - ~~the~~  
man's Flora has no heart in it. 2<sup>d</sup> - Every  
man's work now should, when  
possible - cover an whole country -  
and so recognize its unity. )

On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. the  
Buffalo Soc. of Nat. Sciences, ~~has~~  
opens its doors to the public -  
and has a preliminary meeting  
at which addresses will be made,  
& a statement of the work & condition  
of the Society be presented. The want  
to ~~reach~~ the public. Invitations have  
been sent to all its correspondents.

If you don't receive your, no  
matter! It may have been sent, but  
matters miscarry. Come, if you  
can let me know beforehand if  
you'll come. If not, please  
regret your inability, in a few lines.  
I've written that I can read it freely  
to the public, as a proof that the Society  
is regarded with appreciation & interest.

Buffalo, March 7, 1866.

My dear Gray:

I am delighted! I have  
not thought the matter through  
so as to be able to submit any  
suggestions. I will barely  
put forward the opinion that  
the true view is the Commercial  
one - that the work or works  
must pay - that this paying  
is the best proof that the best  
work was called for & is  
good. Bearing this in mind -  
I remember that I want you  
to do all the botanists - to  
do a great deal - and, if  
you do all, & keep the whole  
together, you will produce  
a book too large for school  
use. My wants from you  
are -

our scientific clubs

1. A manual of the Botany of the U. States & Canada - or rather of North America - <sup>perhaps including perhaps</sup>
2. A flora of America - perhaps adding the inter-Oceanic Islands of the Pacific
3. A Book for the use of Schools -

I want the first & third to be in one volume: I fear they can't be knocked into one. Their (or its) circulation ~~is~~ a most desirable, and, perhaps, a necessary preparation for a profitable publication of the 2<sup>d</sup>.

As to the second: there are two policies as to the manner of the typographical & artistic execution -

1<sup>st</sup> (What I love) the beautiful book way - glorious paper & typography, and illustrations

the most beautiful and artistic, - putting the work within the reach only of a few.  
 2<sup>d</sup> Such a publication as every Botanist can buy. & as will go into every Academy - and will foster the taste and more widely diffuse a knowledge of Botany - and make Asa Gray a household rather than a college word.

But I don't understand these things.

4. I want you to bear me always in your kindest remembrance.
5. I want you to let your wife know that I think about as highly of you as she does.

And now for a matter of great importance!